



In 1975, the Town of Guilford purchased about 600 acres of forested land in north-eastern Guilford. This area, known as Timberlands, provides wildlife habitat and nature-based recreation -- hiking, riding, etc. The Timberlands property also supports high-value timber and cordwood that is harvested as part of an overall management plan under the auspices of the Conservation Commission and designed to enhance and preserve the richness of the forest.

Most of the trails extend over gently rolling hills and are suited to hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. The southern section can be tough and challenging while the northern trails are wide and smooth. The longest path winds around a peaceful lake (the northern part of the Guilford Lakes) which is perfect for stopping to reflect or bird watching. Mountain bikers have become a significant user group in the Timberlands Forest. Many of the biking trails are segregated to handle the considerable impact of aggressive tire tread, but all trail users should be considerate where trails are shared. During spring, mud or flooding can prevent travel on some sections of trails, and in the winter some portions of the trail can be icy.

Guilford's forests provide clues to past land use. Miles of crisscrossing stone walls reveal the extent to which the land was once cleared for farming, pasture, and charcoal. Thick-trunked, spreading trees in the middle of the forest ("wolf trees") suggest trees that once stood alone in the open without crowding by adjacent trees. An excellent example stands in Timberlands at the intersection of the Red and Yellow Trails.



Both photos by Ann Camp, Guilford Conservation Commission

Directions and Parking:

Take Route 77 to Stepstone Hill Road. This turns into Madison Road. Turn left on Lakeside Drive (before the bridge). Parking area is on the left near the large rocks. The trail system covers only the southern section accessed from parking areas on the east side of Maupas Road or from the west side on Lakeside Drive.

Permitted Activities:

Trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding are located within the Forest. Swimming, rock climbing, and boating is prohibited. Trout fishing is permitted in the Iron Stream.

For more information about this location, contact:

Guilford Land Conservation Trust
(203-457-9253)
www.guilfordlandtrust.org

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South Central Regional Council of Governments

127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West
North Haven, CT 06473

Phone: (203) 234-7555
Fax: (203) 234-9850
E-mail: trails@scrcog.org

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TIMBERLANDS FOREST

Guilford, CT

TIMBERLANDS

Guilford, Connecticut

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

